

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-08 SP-02 NSC-05
INR-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 DODE-00 TRSE-00 /075 W
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P R 161020Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4095
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMMBASSY MAPUTO 842
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0726

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TZ, KE
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN ATMOSPHERE

REF: (A) NAIROBI 2007 (NOTAL), (B) DAR ES SALAAM 7)) (NOTAL),
(C) DAR ES SALAAM 0590 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE TO DATE HAD NO REPORTS, RUMORS, OR HINTS THAT ANY
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT TOOK PLACE AGAINST NYERERE AT ARUSHA
STADIUM FEB 3 (REF A). STORY WAS NOT CURRENT IN ARUSHA ON
FEB 5-7. NYERERE APPEARED CALM AND IN GOOD SPIRITS AT HUGE
FEB 5 LUNCHEON THERE, AND NO EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS
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WERE APPARENT. HE, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATS AND OTHERS,
DID SUFFER STOMACH UPSET AFTER THE LUNCH, POPULARLY ATTRIBUTED
TO THE COLD FISH HORS D'OEUVRES. AS 1,000 PEOPLE WERE BEING
SERVED BY INEXPERIENCED HOTEL STAFF ON A HOT DAY, THIS IS PERHAPS
NOT SURPRISING. HOTEL OFFICIALS BLAMED FOOD SERVED AT EXPOSITION
GROUNDS IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN.

2. PRESS WAR BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA GOES ON UNABATED, WITH BOTH SIDES GRASPING FOR WAYS OF DISCREDITING THE OTHER. TANZANIANS HAVE APPARENTLY DRAWN SOME BLOOD BY CALLING UNSPECIFIED KENYAN LEADERS "NYANG'AUS", A WORD FOR HYENA. WE UNDERSTAND THIS WORD IS ESPECIALLY INSULTING TO KIKUYUS, AND TANZANIAN MEDIA ARE REPEATING IT UNMERCIFULLY.

3. PEOPLE TALK ABOUT TROOP CONCENTRATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO EXPECT FIGHTING. WHEN STORIES OF ILL TREATMENT OF TANZANIAN AIRLINE WORKERS IN KENYA FIRST SURFACED, THERE WAS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF "ON TO MOMBASA" SPIRIT, BUT THIS SEEMS TO HAVE TAPERED OFF. THE KENYAN BORDER REMAINS RATHER TIGHTLY CLOSED, AND TANZANIA CONTINUES TO HOLD ON TO KENYAN-REGISTERED TOUR BUSES, RENTAL CARS, AND CHARTER AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES WITH KENYAN PLATES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO CROSS BACK TO KENYA AT NAMANGA (SOME 25-30 OF THEM, ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN ARUSHA). THE KENYAN TOUR BUS DRIVERS, AND FOREIGN TOURISTS WHO HAD COME IN FROM KENYA, HAVE ALMOST ALL BEEN RETURNED THERE. AS REPORTED REF B, TANZANIA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IN FUTURE ALL TOURISTS COMING FROM KENYA MUST ENTER BY AIR AT DAR ES SALAAM OR KILIMANJARO AIRPORTS, EVEN IF BORDER REOPENED TO OTHER TRAFFIC. TANZANIA ALSO INTENDS TO REDUCE PERMANENTLY ITS TRADE WITH KENYA, AND WILL GIVE CLEAR PREFERENCE TO OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ZANZIBAR (WHICH NORMALLY GETS OIL PRODUCTS BY SHIP FROM KENYA (REF C) HAS RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE LOAD SINCE BORDER CLOSING, AND MAINLAND PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS HAVE BEEN GIVEN THREE MONTHS GRACE TO FIND NON-KENYAN SOURCES FOR LUBRICATING OILS
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AND OTHER SPECIALTY ITEMS NORMALLY OBTAINED FROM KENYA.

5. TANZANIA HAS ARRANGED TO WET LEASE TWO AIRCRAFT FROM MOZAMBIQUE AIRLINES; THE BOEING 737 WHICH IT HAS BEEN USING SINCE ABOUT FEB 7, AND A FOKKER F-27 FRIENDSHIP. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TANZANIA IS PAYING MOZAMBIQUE FOR THEM. THEY ARE OPERATING INTERNAL ROUTES AND TO LUSAKA AND MAPUTO.

6. THE NEW CABINET WAS SWORN IN FEB 16.

7. COMMENT: LAUNCHING OF THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (CCM) AND CONCOMITANT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT, COUPLED WITH COLLAPSE OF EAST AFRICAN AIRLINES AND CONSEQUENT BORDER CLOSURE AND DISPUTE WITH KENYA, ARE MAKING TANZANIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS MORE THAN USUALLY EVENTFUL AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE OBVIOUSLY VERY BUSY. AS IS HIS CUSTOM, NYERERE IS KEEPING HIS PLANS CLOSELY HELD UNTIL IMPLEMENTED. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, SENSE ANY FEELING THAT THE REGIME IS THREATENED, OR OF EMERGENCY OTHER THAN THAT CAUSYK BY NECESSITY OF MEETING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS POSED BY CONTINUING

BORDER CLOSURE. EVEN THERE, TANZANIA HAS LONG BEEN WORRIED ABOUT ITS ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON CAPITALIST KENYA, AND SOME CONTINGENCY PLANNING HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.

8. SO LONG AS DISPUTE WITH KENYA CONTINUES, WE ANTICIPATE THAT LEVEL OF JOURNALISTIC VEHEMENCE WILL REMAIN HIGH. EACH SIDE WILL MAGNIFY AND INVENT SUGGESTIONS THAT THE OTHER REGIME MAY BE IN CRITICAL TROUBLE. SO FAR AS WE CAN SEE AT THIS END, THAT IS NOT TRUE AT PRESENT OF TANZANIA.
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